

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## The Frederick County Health Department and Walgreens Team Up to End the HIV Epidemic

**FREDERICK, MD --** Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> is National HIV Testing Awareness Day. From 10AM to 7PM, the Frederick County Health Department is hosting free and confidential HIV screenings in partnership with Walgreens at 1595 Opossumtown Pike.

In 2019, the plan to End the HIV Epidemic was launched. With this initiative, the goal is to reduce HIV transmission rates in 2025 by 75%, and 90% in 2030. Using the campaign U=U or Undetectable equals Untransmittable is a way to end the stigma associated with HIV, use the treatment as prevention strategy, and help educate the public on the advances in HIV prevention and care. Frederick County as a whole is doing very well at surpassing the benchmarks on the path to ending the epidemic. Frederick County is part of the Washington Metro Service Area, which includes Montgomery and Prince George's counties. This service area has seen a decrease in new HIV cases by 25% since 2010.

The HIV program at the Frederick County Health Department will offer free and confidential screening at the Walgreens at 1595 Opossumtown pike on June 27 from 10AM to 7PM. The testing process is simple, only requiring a few minutes and a small drop of blood. Incentives will be offered while supplies last to anyone who receives a screening. Walk-in HIV screening services are also offered at the health department on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9AM-3PM. Appointments are available on days and times outside of those already mentioned. For questions or appointments, call 301-600-3342.

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